

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-1308

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Operations and Services

Surface Observing Program (Land), NDSPO 10-13

Surface Observing Programs at Federal Aviation Administration Sites

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes Weather Service Operations Manual Chapter B-13, Standards and Procedures for Surface Observing Programs at FAA Facilities, Issuance 75-19, dated August 8, 1975, and Operations Manual Letter 04-01, Federal Aviation Administration Non-Federal Observations Program, dated March 28, 2001.

Signed by
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Date

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Table of Contents:

1. Purpose	2
2. Policy	2
2.1 Standards	2
2.2 Quality Control	2
2.3 Certification	2
2.4 Inspections	2

Appendices:

A. Federal Aviation Administration Non-Federal Observing Program	A1
B. WS Form B-65 Site Certificate of Approval	B1

1. Introduction. This instruction establishes National Weather Service (NWS) operating methods for the surface weather observing programs at staffed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) sponsored weather observing sites. Appendix A describes the FAA sponsored non-Federal observing program (NF-OBS). This instruction has been approved by the FAA.

2. Procedure. At sites staffed by FAA employees or contract employees the FAA is responsible for the augmentation and backup of the automated weather observing systems, or the manually provided observation. FAA employees and FAA funded or partially funded observing personnel operate under FAA Order 7900.5, Surface Weather Observing - METAR, and FAA Order 7210, FAA Facility Operation and Administration. The NWS does not provide the FAA any additional surface observing sensors.

- a. FAA Order 7900.5 for use by NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) may be obtained from the NWS regional surface program manager:
- b. FAA Order 7210.3 may be obtained from the internet at:
<http://www.faa.gov/atpubs/fac/index.htm>.

2.1 Standards. The aviation weather observing programs at FAA sites follow standards and FAA requirements as described in FAA Orders 7210.3 and 7900.5.

2.2 Quality Control. The WFOs and data collection offices maintain a quality control program as instructed in NWSI 10-1303 and 10-1305.

2.3 Certification.

- a. The NWS provides weather observer certificates to all FAA sponsored weather observing personnel in accordance with NDS 10-1304.
- b. Upon successful completion of the initial NWS inspection, the Regional Director or designated representative issues a site certificate of approval to each staffed FAA site providing weather observations. The certificate is revoked if the conditions described in NWSI 10-1303 paragraph 5.2.4.b have occurred. The Appendix B, WS Form B-65, is the site certificate of approval for FAA observing sites.

2.4 Station Inspections. The NWS provides station inspections at FAA sites in accordance with NWSI 10-1303.

APPENDIX A - Non-Federal Observing Program

This attachment states the procedure the National Weather Service (NWS) will follow to support the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Non-Federal Observations (NF-OBS) Program. The NF-OBS program allows the NF-OBS observers to perform augmentation and backup of commissioned ASOS at no cost to the Federal Government.

The NWS Regional Headquarters cooperates with the FAA in establishing the NF-OBS agreement (s) at no cost to the Federal Government. The cooperative agreements are established between the NF-OBS provider and the FAA. Each NWS Regional Headquarters establishes a point of contact with the corresponding FAA region. The NWS Regional Headquarters advises the FAA if any terms of the agreements conflict with existing NWS policy.

The NWS issues observing certificates following the instructions regarding Limited Aviation Weather Reporting Stations instructions described in NWSI 10-1304. The observers use the FAA rules and guidelines, including FAA Order 7900.5, Surface Weather Observations - METAR. The NWS inspects the NF-OBS sites initially and on a recurring annual basis as described in NWSI 10-1303.

The NWS does not provide any backup meteorological sensors to the NF-OBS provider. All NF-OBS provided backup sensors must be sited in accordance with Office of Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research handbook, "Federal Standard for Siting Meteorological Sensors at Airports." The staff of NWS Weather Forecast Offices or Regional Headquarters work with the NF-OBS provider to coordinate observer certification, station inspection, and other issues as they arise. If the NF-OBS provider does not meet all obligations the NWS shall inform the appropriate FAA region, and take appropriate action as described in NWSI 10-1303 paragraph 5.2.4.b.

Each Regional Headquarters maintains a listing of NF-OBS Programs in their region and inform W/OPS22 of new, or changes to, each NF-OBS location. W/OPS22 invoices the FAA for payment. Procedures for this invoicing are described in the NWS and FAA Memorandum of Agreement for Operations, Maintenance and Planned Improvement of Automated Surface Observing System (Agreement Number 74631, dated September 22, 2000).

United States Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Site Certificate of Approval

This is to certify the Federal Aviation Administration Site at:

Meets the standards established by the National Weather Service and is
designated a National Weather Service approved observing location.



WS Form B-65 Site Certificate of Approval